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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3078  
INFO RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 1628  
RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 000960

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/20/2013

TAGS: PREL EAID ECON EINV FFIN FR IZ

SUBJECT: FRENCH FM KOUCHNER WILL NOT/NOT ATTEND ICI  
STOCKHOLM MINISTERIAL DUE TO TRAVEL TO IRAQ

REF: A. PARIS 901

¶B. STATE 437999

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt for reasons 1.4. (b), (d).

¶1. (SBU) Further to ref a, French MFA desk officer Olivier Masseret informed us May 19 that French FM Kouchner would not lead his country's delegation to the May 29 ICI ministerial in Stockholm. Instead, MFA Secretary General Gerard Errera (essentially a D-equivalent) would replace Kouchner as head of delegation. Masseret added that State Secretary for Cooperation and Francophone Affairs Alain Jouyandet (a junior minister position) would also not be able to attend. Although France would send working-level delegation members, the senior-most person after Errera will be the GOF's interministerial coordinator for assistance to Iraq Xavier Roze.

¶2. (C) Masseret was reluctant to provide details over the phone for security reasons, but he confirmed that Kouchner's schedule conflict was due to his long-awaited trip to Irbil for the official opening of the French embassy office there. He would not provide a date, but we have heard from Iraq's ambassador to France that Kouchner should arrive in Irbil on May 28. Masseret confirmed our understanding that Kouchner would travel to Baghdad for meetings with Iraqi leaders ("Of course, he cannot just go to Kurdistan!"). He claimed that the GOF had already passed details on Kouchner's expected movements to U.S. military authorities. According to Masseret, Kouchner hopes to see Ambassador Crocker at some point during his Baghdad stay.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.cfm>

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